



Rural Economies Workgroup

September 25, 2017

To: Susan Summers, Chairman, Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission

From: Greg Bowen, Rural Economies Workgroup Chair

Subj: Status Report on Rural Economies Workgroup Activities

Date: September 25, 2017

The Rural Economies Workgroup met on September 8th to review the progress of its subcommittees (Sustainable Food and Food Production, Sustainable Forestry, Land Preservation and Protected Open Space, Rural Development and Recreation, and Sustainable Fisheries). See below the “Workgroup Agenda and Notes Document” that summarizes the status of each subcommittees’ efforts. The next meeting of the full Workgroup is November 3.

Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission – Rural Economies Workgroup Agenda and Notes Document	
Meeting Notes For:	Rural Economies Workgroup
Date and time:	September 8, 2017 @ 1 pm
Called by: Chuck Boyd	Facilitator’s Name: Chuck Boyd
Attendance:	Chuck Boyd, Elliott Campbell, Deborah Carpenter, Debra Celnik, Colby Ferguson, Jason Dubow, Joe Griffiths, Steve McHenry, Jim Mullin, John Papagni
Notes Taken By:	Chuck Boyd
Agenda and Notes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance – 10 members attended in person or by conference call. Mr. Boyd briefed the Workgroup on the status of Growth Commission and its upcoming scheduled meeting in North Beach, MD on September 25. Status Report on the five (5) Subcommittees by each facilitator highlighting items discussed and future actions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable Food and Food Production Subcommittee (Dan Rosen facilitator) Chuck Boyd reported for Dan Rosen that the Subcommittee’s met on September 7 where they continued to work on the directory of food processors and the analysis of livestock producers versus processors, and discussed Dan’s research about community kitchens. See Subcommittee meeting notes attached. Sustainable Forestry Subcommittee (Jason Dubow/Elliott Campbell facilitators) DNR’s Forestry Service provided the following update concerning an important priority action item of the Sustainable Forestry Subcommittee: 	

To assist foresters with compliance with new standards for controlling erosion and sedimentation from timber harvest operations that went into effect July 1, 2017, DNR and MDE continue to explore the possibility of a MOU enabling and defining a proposed new role for the DNR Forest Service: to work directly with loggers on each timber harvest to ensure a common understanding of how to implement Waters of the State protections.

Even if an MOU is not developed, there likely will be some type of new arrangement whereby state foresters will play a direct role in field guidance for harvests and for providing interpretation of compliance with BMPs. This will be an improvement over Maryland's current approach, and will help facilitate forestry and support rural economies in Maryland."

- C. Land Preservation and Protected Open Space Subcommittee (Dan Rosen facilitator)
The Subcommittee has not met since the last Workgroup meeting, and there is no update on Subcommittee activities.
 - D. Rural Development and Recreation Subcommittee (Deborah Carpenter facilitator)
Deborah Carpenter reported that the Subcommittee met once on July 11 to continue its review of Reinvest Maryland. The Subcommittee discussed the sidebar entries for the Reinvest MD document. Chuck Boyd gave a synopsis of progress on the Reinvest MD update. Debbie reported that the legislative initiatives that were decided upon at the last meeting were presented to both the Reinvest MD Workgroup and the Sustainable Growth Commission (SGC) with a good reception. Joe Griffiths reported on the SGC Education Workgroup's major initiatives. See attached notes for more details.
 - E. Sustainable Fisheries Subcommittee (Chuck Boyd facilitator). Mr. Boyd reported that no Subcommittee efforts took place.
- 4. Other Items for Future Workgroup Discussions: Les Knapp mentioned that he talked to Gerrit Knaap about examining Smart Growth after 20 years of implementation. He suggested the workgroup may want to consider examining possible modernization of the State Smart Growth policies such as the PFA Law.
 - 5. Next Workgroup meeting is November 3, 2017 at 1 pm at MDP's Olmsted Conference Room in Baltimore.

Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission – Rural Economies Workgroup Sustainable Food and Food Production Subcommittee Agenda and Notes Document	
Saved as: K:\Planning Services\Administrative\Public\Growth Commission\Workgroup Folders\Rural Economies Workgroup\Subcommittee Strategies\Sustainable Food and Food Products Subcommittee\Minutes 9-7-2017	
Meeting Notes For:	Subcommittee on Sustainable Food and Food Production
Date and time: September 7, 2017	
Called by: Daniel Rosen	Facilitator's Name: Daniel Rosen/ Chuck Boyd
Attendance:	Chuck Boyd, Debra Celnik, Steve McHenry, Jim Mullin, Daniel Rosen. Colby Ferguson submitted comments by email before the meeting.
Notes Taken By: Daniel Rosen	
Agenda and Notes: Topic: The Subcommittee reviewed the map of livestock processors and approved it. It uses parcel points to display the location of each facility. A circle around each one shows a ten-mile radius. Topic: The Subcommittee reviewed the first draft of a guidance document that gave the locations and descriptions of some community kitchens and kitchen incubators in Maryland and an overview of them in general. The Subcommittee said this was a good start. Review Key Actions from meeting. In his email, Colby said that kitchen incubators would be found in urban areas while community kitchens, in churches and firehouses, would exist in rural areas. Jim agreed, citing that the economies of scale in an incubator would require an urban population. Chuck noted that the three hurdles for a value-added food entrepreneur are processing, cold storage, and labeling. These can be very expensive; health and zoning regulations add other obstacles. Debra said that both the processing facility and the individual vendor need certification/licenses. Chuck said that the subcommittee could really help people by filling in the information gaps about these requirements, but that we shouldn't reinvent the wheel; perhaps the information already exists. Steve recommended that we talk to Ginger Myers, who works at the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension and runs the Maryland Rural Enterprise Development Center website https://extension.umd.edu/mredc ; Karen Fedor at MDA (Sr. Ag Marketing Specialist – Specialty Crops, National Marketing Karen.Fedor@maryland.gov) ; and Matt Tefteau at the Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture matthew.teffeau@maryland.gov . Date and time for next meeting. TDB, possibly October 5 th at 10:00.	
Key Actions, who has agreed take on	Describe action and indicate when action is due
1. Verify/post processor map	Dan will send the table of processors to county ag land preservation program administrators to find out if any businesses should be added to or deleted from the list. Next, Dan will work with Planning's graphics division to create an interactive map that can be posted on the web.
2. Talk to contacts listed above	Debra Celnik volunteered for this task.
Resource Materials used and draft documents	State map showing location of slaughterhouses/processors. Draft Community Kitchen Guidance Document.

Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission – Rural Economies Workgroup – Rural Development & Recreation Subcommittee Minutes	
Meeting Notes For:	Rural Development & Recreation Subcommittee
Date and time:	August 10, 2017
Called by: D. Carpenter	Facilitator's Name: Deborah Carpenter
Attendance:	Deborah Carpenter, Joe Rogers, Les Knapp, Diane Chasse, Ann Jones, Colby Ferguson, Duane Yoder, Kim Brandt, Chuck Boyd and Joe Griffiths
Notes Taken By:	Deborah Carpenter
Minutes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting began with a discussion about the sidebar entries for the ReInvest MD document. If any member wishes to contribute another sidebar entry to the document prior to it going to the Sustainable Growth Commission, they will need to submit them by August 30. Otherwise, sidebars will be added to a website MDP plans to construct. Joe Griffiths summarized the priorities and work initiatives of the SGC Education Workgroup. Joe stated that the SGC Education Workgroup has three major initiatives: (1) Children in Nature (now known as Project Green Classrooms), (2) the Sustainable Growth Challenge and (3) developing a training curriculum to promote initiatives in ReInvest MD. The group would like to have a curriculum template ready for a pilot training this Fall. The group discussed the nine educational initiatives (of the 16 previously prioritized) and ultimately decided that the three Visions listed were the most imperative. Those Visions included Vision #3, Vision #1a and Vision #1d, in order of priority. Les suggested that the list associated with Vision #3 add information about tax incentives and credits. After discussion, Debbie summarized the rural educational and training needs by emphasizing the following topic areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Small business attraction to downtown and retention of existing small businesses, including incentives such as tax incentives and credits Options for dealing with vacant buildings How to streamline local permitting processes Colby commented that a great model for streamlining processes and assisting small businesses is the “No Wrong Door” policy in Frederick County. The group expressed interest in learning more about this policy and its successes. Les stated that the rest of the nine educational initiatives listed are being handled by other groups and feels our focus should be on ensuring the Visions we discussed today come to fruition. The group agreed with that sentiment and the meeting was called to a close. The next meeting will focus on policy initiatives and will be held August 31, 2017 	
Key Actions to be taken prior to next meeting	Describe action and indicate when action is due
1.	Debbie will complete and send the summary and minutes of this meeting and the agenda for next.
2.	Colby will see what information he can get on the “No Wrong Door” policy and supply it to Chuck who will in turn supply it to the group.
Resource Materials used and draft documents	- List of 9 initiatives educational in nature or having an educational component.